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Sweet Briar

NEWSLETTER

NO. 6

BULLETIN OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

MAY, 1970

New Course Offerings

Announced for 1970-71

New courses in conservation, urban development, and black studies, announced for the 1970-71 session, point up the intellectual curiosity of students about new knowledge and events that are shaping the world they live in. They have a voice in curriculum revision through their elected representatives on the Curriculum Committee which meets at intervals with the Faculty Committee on Instruction.

Introduction to Black Studies will be an interdisciplinary course on the black man in North America, pertaining to his history, problems, and contributions. It will be presented in lectures and discussions by members of the departments of art, biology, English, music, and psychology, and the Division of Social Studies. Dr. Lysbeth W. Muncy, professor of history and government, and Dr. Phyllis W. Stevens, professor of psychology, are coordinators and will serve as discussion leaders.

Another new course, the History of Africa, will provide a background for understanding the nations which have emerged in Africa today. Taught by Dr. Edith Lowry, associate professor of history, the history of the continent will be surveyed from pre-historic times to the present.

The current environmental crisis and conflicting problems of urbanization and conservation will be the subjects for a new course offered by the Biology Department, called Conservation: Agenda for Tomorrow.

It will be taught in part by visiting specialists who will discuss from many aspects the problems of air and water pollution, pesticides, urbanization, and natural resources. They will represent academic, agricultural, conservationist, industrial, political and legal views, and the conflicting interests in these areas.

Dr. Elizabeth Sprague, professor of biology, will conduct the course, assisted by the visiting lecturers. As part of their studies, students will go on field trips to nearby sites which illus-

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

National Science Foundation

Grant Awarded for Sciences Improvement Plan

To support a development project involving both the natural and social sciences, Sweet Briar has received a grant of \$203,900 from the National Science Foundation. The grant, which is the largest ever awarded to the college for such purposes, is under the direction of Dr. Jane C. Belcher, chairman of the biology department, and is for a period of approximately three years.

Sweet Briar's proposal, which was approved by the NSF under the College Science Improvement Program, provides for expanded and improved curriculum and facilities in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, economics, government, and sociology.

Funds will be expended for faculty research and scholarly activities, curriculum studies, new scientific equipment, and undergraduate student projects. The plan will allow some members of the faculty released time to work on curriculum planning and enrichment, and others to receive training in new methods of teaching and research.

Under the grant, increased emphasis will be placed on student involvement in research projects concerned with the natural environment of the college and the social, political, and economic aspects of the surrounding county.

The college has a singular asset in its many acres of nature sanctuaries and preserves, and in being located in a county marked by great variety in human enterprise and examples of pressing modern problems. Projects in both areas will be interdisciplinary through their focus on ecology. Visiting consultants will assist in these activities and in coordinating departmental efforts. Two new courses, "Conservation: Agenda for Tomorrow" and "Urban Studies," will be offered next year, aided by the grant.

While the immediate objective is to improve all the sciences at Sweet Briar, the Science Improvement Planning Committee contemplates a future goal of ecological studies, or man and his environment, utilizing to the fullest extent the college's unique setting.

This second objective will demand long-term planning and will concern

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMENCEMENT

- May 30 Baccalaureate Service. 3 p.m.
The Rev. Stephen Davenport
President's Garden Party. 4:30
- May 31 Commencement. 10:30 a.m.
Dr. John C. Houbolt

ALUMNAE REUNIONS

- May 31 Registration. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Class picnic suppers.
- June 1 Panel, alumnae husbands.
Alumnae Luncheon. 1 p.m.
Faculty 'Open Houses'
Concert. Iren Marik
- June 2 Alumnae Association meeting.
Panel: Sweet Briar Today.
President's luncheon

Environment Problems Spur New Campus Group

A new organization called CLEAN has emerged on campus to coordinate the efforts of students and faculty who want to do something about the environmental crisis. The Citizens League for Environmental Action Now is headed by a planning committee of four students and four faculty and staff members, chaired by John F. Collins, instructor in mathematics, and Anne Garrett, '72.

Dues-paying members of CLEAN took the lead in campus observance of Earth Day, April 22, which included an Environmental Teach-in, conducted by a panel of students, and two films from the National Park Service.

Their broader plans call for establishing a center for the gathering and dispensing of information on environmental problems, and for participating in programs of local, state and national organizations concerned with them.

New Courses Offered

(Continued from page 1, col. 1)

trate the effects of industry, agriculture and mining on the environment.

Funds for this new interdisciplinary course will be drawn from the grant of \$203,900 recently awarded to Sweet Briar by the National Science Foundation.

Another course made possible by the grant will be Urban Studies, offered by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and taught by Dr. Catherine C. Seaman. As outlined, the course will be concerned with the influence of urbanization and industrialization on social organization and institutions. Students will also attend some of the lectures by visiting specialists engaged for the conservation course.

In the field of economics, two new courses for advanced students are critical studies of the microeconomic and macroeconomic theories, taught by Dr. Reuben G. Miller who has been appointed Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics.

Additional offerings in the Department of Modern Languages include Post-Civil War Poetry and Prose in Spain, with study of the forms and directions since 1939, taught by Dr. Maria Z. Embeita, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish, and The Contemporary Latin-American Novel, taught by Daniel A. Williams, instructor in Spanish.

Studio art will be enhanced by new and advanced courses with broader experimentation in techniques and various media. Students in a course on New Media will experiment with the synthetic resins used by artists today in painting, graphics and sculpture. Courses in Advanced Graphics and Advanced Sculpture will be open to students who have demonstrated their ability to continue creative work in these art forms.

Those who have completed the basic studio course may enroll in Two-Dimensional Design, using graphic media for the study of design problems, and in Three-Dimensional Design, using such media as paper, wood, metal and plastic.

An innovation in physical education will allow students to do independent work on a semester's project as part of the two-year requirement. Skiing will be included for the first time among outdoor winter sports, and will be taught by instructors at the Homestead in Hot Springs where lessons in skiing are offered at student rates.

Outing activities at the course level are also planned for small groups of students who wish to take part in organized hiking and camping.



M. von Briesen
Jenny Matheson, '72, Kitty Howell, '72, and Martha Holland, '72, chatted with Ben Ward, graduate student at Yale, who gave a piano concert during the Black Culture Symposium in March.

French House to Open On Campus Next Fall

A bit of France will be transplanted to Sweet Briar next fall with the opening of a French house on Faculty Row where students will speak French and enjoy a Gallic atmosphere.

La Maison Francaise is for students with some knowledge of the language who are taking advanced courses in French literature, and who have a taste for experiencing another culture and speaking a language other than their own. Living in the house will be especially valuable for French majors and for those who expect to enroll in the Junior Year in France.

A scholarship student from Paris, Marie-Laure Las Vergnas, who holds a baccalaureate from the Lycée Victor Duruy, will live in the house as French *assistante*. Her father is a professor at the Sorbonne. Carter Heyward, '71, of Columbia, S. C., is house president.

Mlle. Las Vergnas will encourage interest in French affairs and culture, introduce the customs of her country, and help students keep their pledge to speak French exclusively. There will be French magazines and records in the house, and the décor will reflect the color and style of France.

Fifteen students have reserved rooms in La Maison Francaise, of whom the following will be sophomores: Joyce Cameron, Sumter, S. C.; Blanche Chappell, Columbus, Ga.; Mary Danford, Miami, Fla.; Jane Genster, Darien, Conn.; Roberta Harmon, Columbia, S. C.; Barbara Livingston, Haworth, N. J.; Anita McVey, Malvern, Pa.; Pamela Rasche, Milwaukee, Wis.; Catharine Rasmussen, Honolulu; Jennifer Stockwell, Monterrey, Mex.;

Sweet Tones' Record Becomes Best-Seller

The fastest-selling record on campus this spring is "A Capella Gold," produced by the Sweet Tones, Sweet Briar's first and best-known informal vocal ensemble. Well over half of the 1,000 records have been sold.

A baker's dozen songs, including a variety of contemporary ballads, an arrangement of a Bach chorale, and four Christmas numbers, make up the double-faced stereo disc. As the title indicates, the Sweet Tones sing without accompaniment and the emphasis is on sweet sounds, not rock. Most of the numbers were arranged by present or former Sweet Tones members.

Following several weeks of intensive rehearsals, the recording was completed in a six-hour session in Washington last December. The record has been enthusiastically acclaimed, both for the quality of the vocal renditions and for the technical excellence of the pressing.

Tracy Savage, a senior from Norfolk, heads the 13 Sweet Tones this year. Seven other seniors, three juniors, and two sophomores complete the ensemble, which will be headed next year by Laura Mink, '71, Litchfield, Conn.

Mary Ann Bowns, '54, organized the Sweet Tones in her junior year. Originally nine in number, the complement has varied, although members are still chosen by audition and because they enjoy singing together. They are often invited to sing at formal and informal occasions on campus, or for local civic groups, and they appear on radio or television programs.

In addition to Tracy and Laura, the Sweet Tones include: Ellen Apperson, '72; Lyn Barr, '70; Sally Campbell, '70; Gale Hull, '71; May Humphreys, '70; Jacque Penny, '71; Marcia Pollock, '70; Kate Schlech, '70; Laura Sickman, '70; Ann Tedards, '70; and Renee Wellford, '72.

A CAPELLA GOLD

the new 33 1/3 r.p.m. stereo record
by

THE SWEET TONES

on sale at The Book Shop

\$4.50

(including packing and postage)

Patricia Thomas, Montgomery, Ala.; and Marianne Vandervort, Deerfield, Ill. The others will be Deirdre Boyle, '72, San Francisco, and Rosanne Woodroof, '71, Richmond.

Sweet Briar previously had a French house for a short period before World War II. More recently there has been a French Corridor in one of the dormitories for several years.

Summer Study in India

A Faculty Study Seminar on Contemporary India for 18 participants from American member-colleges of the U. S.-India Women's Colleges Exchange program will be directed by Dr. Milan E. Hapala, Carter Glass Professor of Government at Sweet Briar.

Supported by a \$36,558 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Seminar will be held in India from June 20 to Aug. 16.

The grant, which is to cover all expenses of the Seminar, will be administered by Sweet Briar on behalf of the consortium of 12 colleges. Dr. Elizabeth P. Lam, Washington is coordinator of the consortium.

An outgrowth of six years of cooperative activities between member colleges in this country and six Indian women's colleges, the Seminar aims to strengthen the competencies of faculty participants who are teaching courses in Asian Studies, especially those related to Indian civilization.

The eight-week Seminar program is planned for teachers in the humanities and social sciences who will study current developments and issues in the modernization of India and the research being done by Indian scholars. They will prepare instructional materials and funds will be allotted for the purchase of teaching aids. They are also to prepare bibliographies for library acquisitions.

An Orientation Conference for seminar participants was held at Sweet Briar early in May. Beginning June 24, they will spend three weeks in Bangalore, concentrating during the first week on political institutions and problems, the second week on study of economic developments, and the third on sociological and cultural changes.

The next two weeks will be spent in Trivandrum and Hyderabad and the final three weeks will be in New Delhi. In each of these centers, Indian specialists will give lectures and lead discussions, supplemented by field trips to a wide variety of sites and by consultations with public officials.

In addition to Dr. Hapala, Sweet Briar will be represented by Dr. Ruth Firm, professor of art. Both were closely associated with Asian Studies Program conducted jointly 1960-66 by Sweet Briar, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and Lynchburg College.

Dr. Hapala was a Faculty Fellow in the Asian Program at the University of Michigan in 1961-62, he held a



Glenn R. Showalter

Dr. Ray Erickson, assistant director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, responded to a question during a panel session of the April symposium on the topic: "Can the City Survive Without the Country?" Other panel speakers are Dr. Anna Chao Pai, a 1957 graduate of Sweet Briar who is teaching genetics at Montclair, N. J., State College; and Dr. John W. Mehl, deputy director, Biological and Medical Sciences Division of the National Science Foundation.

New Members Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa

Eight seniors and three juniors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa Society in February. Together with five other members of the Class of 1970 who won this academic distinction last October, they were initiated into the college's Theta of Virginia Chapter in March.

Juniors elected are: Carole Melvor, Madison Heights, Va.; Yolanda Moore, Indianapolis; and Martha Mallory Stewart, Selma, Ala.

Seniors include: Bobbie Bell, New Bern, N. C.; Lynne Brantly, Gladwyne, Pa.; Kristin Herzog, North Scituate, Mass.; Baird Hunter, Norfolk; Margaret Lewis, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Betty Rau, Highland Park, Ill.; Josephine Shaw, Sidon, Miss.; and Katy Lou Warren, Mobile.

Fulbright Fellowship to attend the Institute in Indian Civilization at Hyderabad in the summer of 1962, and in 1964-65 he held a post-doctoral NDEA fellowship for the study of Hindi-Urdu and Indian politics at the University of Pennsylvania. He also participated in summer faculty seminars on Chinese and Indian civilizations at the University of Virginia.

Colleges in the consortium include: Agnes Scott, Bennett, Cedar Crest, Elmira, Goucher, Hood, Mary Washington, Queens, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Vassar, Western.

Students Accepted for Foreign Study

Foreign study plans for the coming year in France and Scotland have been approved for a number of sophomores. Others are waiting for their acceptance in various other programs.

Ten are enrolled in the Sweet Briar Junior Year in France. They will be in a group of approximately 100 men and women from colleges and universities throughout the country.

After six weeks in Tours, where they will be introduced to French academic and cultural life, they will go to Paris to enroll in the University. They will live in French homes in both cities.

Those admitted are: Jean Andrews, Rosario Brache, Martha Bugg, Eileen Gebrian, Mercedes Gravatt, Rhonda Griffith, Stephanie Harmon, Nancy Kaufmann, Karen Terstappen, and Penelope Walsh.

Sweet Briar's representatives at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, next year will be Virginia Stevens and Sharron Uhler. They have been admitted under a special arrangement which has been in effect between the two institutions since 1932.

Grant for Sciences

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

biological and behavioral sciences, as well as the humanities. Coordinated original studies, conducted by undergraduates under supervision, would have considerable educational value and would yield important information.

Campus Notes

• The first coeducational exchange students under the plan made by four women's and four men's colleges in Virginia and North Carolina will attend other colleges in the consortium beginning in September. Sweet Briar's first men, both juniors, are coming from Hampden-Sydney College, one for the whole year and the other for the second semester. Mary Einhaus, '72, has been admitted to Davidson College for the year and Martha Stewart, '71, will be there the first semester. Mary is majoring in sociology and Martha in economics.

• This spring, for the first time since 1907, there was no May Queen and no May Day celebration in the traditional fashion. Instead, the students planned a social weekend, the only major one held during the current academic year.

• Two seniors, Frances Dornette and Josephine Shaw, represented Sweet Briar at the 10th annual Foreign Affairs Conference at the U. S. Naval Academy in April. Frances is majoring in government and Jo, who also attended last year's conference, is majoring in international affairs.

• Barbara Offutt, a senior drama major, was named a Woodrow Wilson Designate, one of 1,153 finalists chosen from nearly 12,000 nominees from 800 colleges and universities throughout this country and Canada to win this distinction. Although these appointments by the Wilson Foundation no longer include a stipend, Designates are recommended to graduate schools for fellowships.



M. von Briesen

During a coffee-break, students questioned speakers at the Careers Conference, Preview '70, in February. Ann Wheeler, a senior, talked with Traylor Rucker, '65, who outlined opportunities in health services.

• A summer grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, one of approximately 100 to be awarded this year, has been received by Dr. Michael D. Richards, assistant professor of history. He plans to spend three months in research and writing at the Institute for Social History in Amsterdam, where he worked as a Fulbright Fellow in 1965-66. His studies this summer, aided by the \$1,500 grant, will be focused on the reactions of European Socialists to the '05 Russian revolution.

• *The Bacchae*, by Euripides, was presented by Paint and Patches, drama club, May 7, 8, 9. Guest director was Richard Mennen, New York, who has recently been in England working in the library and attending rehearsals of the Stratford Theatre. Guest actor Durward McDonald played the role of Dionysus.

• Dr. David A. Johnson, assistant professor of psychology, is one of 10 psychologists selected nationally for a program called Research Participation for College Teachers, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. A grant of approximately \$1,600 will enable him to join the 10-week summer program at the University of Michigan, where his research in short-term memory will be directed by Dr. Robert Bjork, an authority in this area.

• One of five grants made by the Mednick Memorial Fund Committee of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges has been awarded to Dr. Ralph Aiken, associate professor of English. It will be applied to his studies in English comic drama during a second-semester sabbatical leave next year, in England.

• Dr. Barbara Blair, assistant dean and associate professor of chemistry, has been invited to become a Fellow in the American Institute of Chemists.

STUDENT HONORS

Dean's List. Seniors: Bobbie Bell, Lynne Brantly, Janine Brockie, Kristin Herzog, Baird Hunter, Louise Lambert, Margaret Lewis, Katherine Litchfield, Sarah Macfarlane, Susan Malcolm, Diane McCabe, Genevieve Minor, Denise Mullen, Mary Scales, Martha Smith, Ann Tedards, Johanna Yaple; **Juniors:** Anne Helms, Claire Kinnett, Jean Littleton, Carole McIvor, Carol Newman, Rebecca Randolph, Lillian Shipper, Roma Skeen, Anne Sniffen; **Sophomores:** Cynthia Gaudio, Caroline Gibbes, Jennifer Linsley, Elizabeth Smith, Katherine Upchurch, Virginia Upchurch.

Freshman Honor List: Freida Carpenter, Virginia Conley, Roberta Culbertson, Alice Fahs, Jane Genster, Dorothy Gunther, Jane Lowrey, Marcia Stanley, Ellen Stelling, Kathryn Thilking, Marianne Vandervort, Clementina Virgin.



Sweet Briar
NEW S L E T T E R

MAY 1970

BULLETIN OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE
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